IN THE CLAIMS:

14. (Currently amended) A method for producing a large-volume, cup-shaped or tub-shaped container of thermoplastic material, the method comprising:

extruding a hose-shaped pre-form of compact plastic material to a predetermined length,

initially widening the extruded pre-form by a predetermined amount,

subsequently moving a core from below into the widened pre-form,

subsequently clamping the widened pre-form at a lower free end thereof sealingly against the core, such that an opening of the container is formed, wherein an area of the opening approximately is equal to a cross-sectional area of the container, ~~and~~

subsequently shaping the pre-form by means of shaping air into the container~~.~~, and

clamping the pre-form by means of clamping elements at the core so as to form a squeezed rim at the pre-from.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 14~~ A method for producing a large-volume, cup-shaped or tub-shaped container of thermoplastic material, the method comprising:

extruding a hose-shaped pre-form of compact plastic material

to a predetermined length,

initially widening the extruded pre-form by a predetermined amount,

subsequently moving a core from below into the widened pre-form,

subsequently clamping the widened pre-form at a lower free end thereof sealingly against the core, such that an opening of the container is formed, wherein an area of the opening approximately is equal to a cross-sectional area of the container,

subsequently shaping the pre-form by means of shaping air into the container, wherein the core is configured as a shaping body, further comprising forming the container by means of a vacuum on the core.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the core is configured as a shaping body, further comprising forming the container by means of a vacuum or blowing air on a two-part hollow mold surrounding the core at a spacing.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising widening the extruded pre-form by at least two rod-shaped spreading elements.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 14~~, A

method for producing a large-volume, cup-shaped or tub-shaped container of thermoplastic material, the method comprising:

extruding a hose-shaped pre-form of compact plastic material to a predetermined length,

initially widening the extruded pre-form by a predetermined amount,

subsequently moving a core from below into the widened pre-form,

subsequently clamping the widened pre-form at a lower free end thereof sealingly against the core, such that an opening of the container is formed, wherein an area of the opening approximately is equal to a cross-sectional area of the container,

subsequently shaping the pre-form by means of shaping air into the container, further comprising widening the extruded pre-form by the core.

19. (Previously presented) A device for producing a large-volume, cup-shaped or tub-shaped container of thermoplastic material, the device comprising

an extrusion head for forming a hose-shaped pre-form of a single-layer compact plastic material,

a spreading unit mounted below the pre-form and movable from below into the pre-form by a relative movement, and a core movable from below into the pre-form after the pre-form has been widened by

the spreading unit, wherein the core comprises at least one two-part clamping element, wherein

the core can be loaded with a vacuum, and wherein

the core is configured to form an opening of the container, wherein an area of the opening is approximately equal to a cross-sectional area of the container.

20. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the spreading unit comprises at least two spreading elements that can be moved apart.

21. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 20, wherein the spreading elements have different cross-sectional shapes.

22. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 20, wherein the spreading elements are formed of parts of the shaping body.

23. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 20, wherein the spreading elements are configured to be radially movable.

24. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 20,

wherein the spreading elements are configured to be pivotable.

25. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the spreading unit is formed by a spreadable or foldable core.

26. (Previously presented) A device for producing a large-volume, cup-shaped or tub-shaped container of thermoplastic material, the device comprising

an extrusion head for forming a hose-shaped pre-form of a single-layer compact plastic material,

a spreading unit mounted below the pre-form and movable from below into the pre-form by a relative movement, and a core movable from below into the pre-form after the pre-form has been widened by the spreading unit, wherein the core comprises at least one two-part clamping element and a hollow mold loadable with vacuum or blowing air and surrounding the core at a spacing, wherein

the core is configured to form an opening of the container, wherein an area of the opening is approximately equal to a cross-sectional area of the container.

27. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 26, wherein the spreading unit comprises at least two spreading elements that can be moved apart.

28. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the spreading elements have different cross-sectional shapes.

29. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the spreading elements are formed of parts of the shaping body.

30. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the spreading elements are configured to be radially movable.

31. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the spreading elements are configured to be pivotable.

32. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 26, wherein the spreading unit is formed by a spreadable or foldable core.

33. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising cutting the squeezed rim after cooling of the container.